



Foreign Affairs Manual

VOL. 6 - GENERAL SERVICES

Transmittal Letter: GS-152

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SSA/DD5

UNIFORM STATE/AID/USIA FOREIGN SERVICE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

USE OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN AIRLINES

To align the Foreign Service Travel Regulations with those of other Government agencies, section 134 is revised to (a) eliminate the penalty provision and (b) permit more latitude for indirect travel.

These changes in the regulations are not retroactive; and any penalties assessed for unauthorized use of a foreign-flag airline for travel performed before the effective date of this revision cannot be revoked on the basis of the changes.

The policy concerning use of foreign-flag airlines is stated in section 134.1. It is expected that official travelers will make maximum use of American-flag carriers when planning their travel.

Action Requested

Administrative officers should bring this revision to the attention of everyone concerned with scheduling or assisting with official travel arrangements. All personnel traveling under the Foreign Service Travel Regulations should be informed of the changes.

Any inquiries to Washington concerning the revision should be sent as joint STATE/AID/USIA messages by either telegram or airgram.

File Instructions

Remove page 134 through Exhibit 134.5 (3 pages) and insert attached page 134 and 134.5.

By pen-and-ink:

On page 132.5, issued by TL:GS-145, change page number "3 FAM 132.5" to "6 FAM 132.5".

Cancel the Department's airgram CA-1589 of March 13, 1969, subject: TRANSPORTATION: Gun Control Act of 1958, since the subject was codified by TL:GS-143.

Cy to: Chmn. Trl Pol Comm.
DDP/PC
D/Pers

UNIFORM STATE/AID/USIA FOREIGN SERVICE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

134 Use of American and Foreign Airlines

134.1 Policy

It is the policy of the United States Government, and the policy set forth by concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives (S. Con. Res. 53, 87th Cong., 76 Stat. 1428), that all official air travel by Government employees and their dependents be performed on American-flag carriers except when otherwise necessitated by the official business concerned or to avoid unreasonable delay, expense, or inconvenience. The standards outlined in these regulations for permissible travel on foreign-flag airlines are provided, in general, for instances when American-flag airlines are not available or efforts to utilize an American-flag airline would result in excessive delay, cost, or personal inconvenience. Full consideration should be given to the intent of the above-stated policy before arranging travel on foreign-flag airlines.

134.2 When American-Flag Airlines Provide Regularly Scheduled Service

When there is regularly scheduled service by an American-flag airline between points of travel, this service should be used.* Transpacific and transatlantic travel must be performed on American-flag carriers, unless the provisions of section 134.4, paragraph b or c, apply. The term "regularly scheduled service" as used herein implies a service that operates at least three times weekly.*

134.3 When American-Flag Airlines Do Not Provide Regularly Scheduled Service

When an American-flag airline does not provide regularly scheduled service between points of travel, * a foreign-flag airline may be used to the nearest practicable interchange point to connect with an American-flag carrier.*

*134.4 General Exceptions to "Fly American" Rule

Foreign-flag airlines may be used under one of the following conditions:

- a. The traveler would be detained over 6 hours at any interchange point en route awaiting an American-flag airline.
- b. Travel by an American-flag airline could not be performed in time to carry out the purpose of the travel.
- c. The use of a foreign-flag airline is necessary or expedient to carry out the mission to be performed.
- d. The traveler would be detained over 12 hours at an interchange point after availing himself of the maximum authorized rest stop (see section 132.4) awaiting the next American-flag airline. Use of a foreign-flag airline should be minimized as provided in section 134.3.
- e. Payment can be made in excess or near-excess foreign currencies for the approved travel uses listed in the Department of State Foreign Currency Bulletins, provided no American air carrier serving the points of travel will accept the currency. For travel uses not approved in the Department of State Foreign Currency Bulletins, Department (BF/FM) approval must be obtained before using excess currency to pay for travel on foreign carriers over routes served by American carriers.
- f. Payment for services can be made from A. I. D. foreign currency trust funds for travel on airlines of the host country to the extent that use of such currency is consistent with any applicable agreement with the host country. Use of trust funds for travel on airlines other than host country must be in accordance with all other regulations.*

UNIFORM STATE/AID/USIA FOREIGN SERVICE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

***134.5 Indirect, Delayed, or Interrupted Travel**

When air travel is performed by an indirect route, or delayed, or interrupted for personal convenience, employees should schedule their travel to make the greatest possible use of American-flag airline service. See also section 131.3.

134.6 Justification for Use of Foreign-Flag Airlines

When a foreign-flag airline is used for any reason, other than in those instances where no American-flag airlines operate between any two points on a traveler's itinerary on a usually traveled route, the traveler shall prepare a memorandum, stating his justification for the use of the foreign-flag airline. The memorandum is to be attached to the employee's travel voucher. *

AMENDMENT
TO
STANDARDIZED REGULATIONS
(Government Civilians, Foreign Areas)

Section 031.12 is revised as follows:

1. Present section 031.12 d. is deleted and present section 031.12 e. is renumbered 031.12 d.
2. The following sentence is added at the end of section 031.12:

"An employee who was determined to be eligible to be granted a living quarters allowance under former section 031.12 d., last effective on March 25, 1971 and last published in TL:SR-174 dated August 11, 1968, may continue to be eligible for and be granted a living quarters allowance while continuously employed in a foreign area and while he or she is otherwise eligible for such allowance."

Section 031.3 Post Differential is revised as shown below:

"Post differential prescribed in Chapter 500 may be granted to employees who are described in sections 031.11 and 031.12, including married employees, without regard to section 031.13 and to employees officially stationed in the United States who are on extended detail (Sec. 541) in a foreign area,

except that:

- a. Post differential may not be granted to a non-spouse dependent employee who is a member of the household of another employee or of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- b. Employees who are chiefs of diplomatic missions (22 U.S.C. 802 (9)) are excluded from eligibility for post differential (see special rule for Viet-Nam in section 920); and
- c. Employees of the Peace Corps shall not be eligible for post differential except as may be expressly authorized by the Director of the Peace Corps in amounts determined by him not in excess of those determined in accordance with subchapter 550.

(Each spouse, if otherwise eligible, may be granted post differential even though only one spouse may be granted living quarters allowance.)

An employee hired under former section 031.12 d. referred to in section 031.12 may continue to receive post differential prescribed in Chapter 500 while continuously employed in a foreign area and while he or she is otherwise eligible for a post differential."

Section 040 m. is revised by deleting in the second line of the section the following: "or differential".